UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/963,453	09/27/2001	Koichi Hashimoto	24796	9553

7590   10/03/2003

NATH & ASSOCIATES
Sixth Floor
1030 Fifteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005

EXAMINER
LIANG, LEONARD S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2853	

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>01 July 2003</u> .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-10* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-10* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

        1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .   6)☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on
sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1.   Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kageyama et al

(US Pat 5625757).

Kageyama et al discloses:

- {claim 1} A printing machine comprising a plurality of image formation units

    each of which serves to perform a printing operation of an image data on a

    printing sheet (figure 3, reference 17, 18-1, 18-2); a paper feed unit which serves

    to supply the image formation units with printing sheets; a printed sheet

    transportation unit which serves to transport the printing sheets having been

    printed from the image formation units to a common output location (inherent to

    disclosed printers); an error detection unit which serves to detect an error

    occurring in the printable machine; a computer readable ROM having an error

    classified table stored therein in which errors that can occur in the printing

    machine are classified, the classified table including at least one error on an

    occurrence of which a printing operation of at least one of the image formation

    units for the image data can be continued while a printing operation of another of

    the image formation units for the image data must be halted, and at least one

other error on an occurrence of which printing operations of all the image

formation units for the image data must be halted (figure 3, 14D, 18a-b; column

26, lines 58-67; column 27, lines 1-16; column 31, lines 4-34); a control unit

comprising a CPU connected to the ROM, the CPU having an error judgment

computer program executed thereon which computer program judges whether or

not a detected error is an error with which a printing operation of at least one of

the image formation units can be continued while a printing operation of another

of the image formation units must be halted, or an error with which printing

operations of all of the image formation units must be halted (figure 3, reference

300; figure 5, reference 500; column 26, lines 58-67; column 27, lines 1-16;

column 31, lines 4-34)

- {claim 2} the control unit is capable of taking control of the printing machine in

  order to continue, without suspending, the printing operation when the control

  unit judges occurrence of an error with which the printing operation of at least

  one of the image formation units can be completed (column 4, lines 37-61)

- {claim 3} the control unit is capable of reporting the result of judgment to a user

  (column 4, lines 57-61)

- {claim 4} the control unit is capable of reporting the result of judgment to a user

  (column 4, lines 57-61)

- {claim 5} the control unit is capable of reporting information of the penalty in

  throughput when a detected error is an error with which the printing operation of

at least one of the image formation units can be continued (column 4, lines 57-
61)

- {claim 6} the control unit is capable of reporting information of the penalty in
throughput when a detected error is an error with which the printing operation of
at least one of the image formation units can be continued (column 4, lines 57-
61)

- {claim 7} A method of reporting an error in a printing machine having a plurality
of image formation units each of which serves to perform a printing operation of
an image data on a printing sheet (figure 3, reference 17, 18-1, 18-2); a printed
sheet transportation unit which serves to transport the printing sheet from the
image formation units to a common output location (inherent); an error detecting
step of detecting an error which occurs in the printing machine; an error look-up
step of looking up the error detected in the error detecting step in an error
classified table stored on a ROM; an error judging step of judging whether or not
the detected error is an error with which the printing operation of at least one of
the image formation units for the image data can be continued while a printing
operation of another of the image formation units for the image data must be
halted or an error with which the printing operation of all of the image formation
units for the image data must be halted; and an error reporting step of reporting
the error as detected in the error detecting step as well as information of whether
or not the printing operation can be continued by the printing machine with the

error (figure 3, 14D, 18a-b; column 4, lines 26-61; column 26, lines 58-67;

column 27, lines 1-16; column 31, lines 4-34)

- {claim 8} reporting information of the penalty in throughput when a detected

  error is an error with which the printing operation of at least one of the image

  formation units can be continued (column 4, lines 57-61)

- {claim 9} one of the CPU and the ROM are located remote from and connected

  to the printing machine via a network connection (figure 3, reference 10)

- {claim 10} the control unit is capable of taking control of the printing machine in

  order to complete the printing operation when the control unit judges that the

  detected error is an error with which the printing operation of at least one of the

  image formation units can be continued (column 4, lines 26-61)

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claim1-10 have been considered but are moot in

view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

3.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure.

Takeda et al (US Pat 5845057) discloses a print processing method for a plurality of

printing apparatuses connected to a network.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leonard S Liang whose telephone number is (703) 305-4754. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5 Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on (703) 308-4896. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

lsl LSL

Stephen D. Meier
Primary Examiner